

INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH BY

Selvi J JAYALALITHAA

Hon'ble Chief Minister

Hon'ble Speaker of the Legislative Assembly !

Hon'ble Ministers !

Members of Parliament and Legislative Assembly!

The Chief Secretary to Government of Tamil Nadu !

and other Officials of the Government !

Respectful elders !

Mothers who bestow their divine blessings on me
all through these years !

The blood bonded brethern of Idayadeivam
Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. and my brothers and
sisters !

First of all I extend warm Independence Day greetings to all of you.

I derive immense pride and pleasure in hoisting the flag of our motherland Bharat from the historic and glorious Fort St. George Ramparts.

Sixty-Four years have gone past after getting Independence from the English rule. While celebrating this 65th Independence day on this sweet occasion, our beautiful national flag flutters gloriously as the sea breeze comes from the Bay of Bengal. After thousand years of sleep and inertia, the seemingly distant dream of Independence become reality on this occasion and it evokes varied feelings within us.

Our state Tamil Nadu is famous for the innumerable martyrs who sacrificed their precious life for securing freedom for our mother land from

the foreign rule. Our state Tamil Nadu also has the pride of having great martyrs who have broken the clutches of slavery through non-violence. This day, we commemorate the great martyrs who have sacrificed their life to achieve the goal of freedom for our country.

Real independence means that all sections of people irrespective of caste, community and religion should live without fear and the poor should be able to prosper economically. This Independence day is a unique day that gives great pleasure to the people of Tamil Nadu. It is a day of seeing joyful faces of people of Tamil Nadu. At this juncture of celebrating the freedom from the British Rule before 64 years, our people in Tamil Nadu are also celebrating the freedom from the shackles which bound them for the past 5 years. The people of Tamil Nadu had

no freedom for the past five years and their daily life was spent with great fear and despair. Now the people of Tamil Nadu have felt that they have regained freedom once again when the A.I.A.D.M.K. Government assumed office after the dynastic tyrannical rule of the D.M.K. government came to an end.

The main problem witnessed by the people of Tamil Nadu for the past five years was the disruption of Law and Order. Previous government converted the peaceful scenario of Tamil Nadu into turmoil and turbulence. My Government has given top priority to maintain law and order and to deliver good governance to rectify the situation.

Whenever I take charge as Chief Minister, police personnel would be allowed to discharge

their duty freely and effectively in order to instill confidence in the minds of the public. Stringent action is used to take against anti social elements and criminals to ensure peace and tranquillity in the State. Likewise, my Government is taking adequate and effective action to ensure that people of Tamil Nadu lead their normal life peacefully.

If Law and Order of a State is to be well maintained, then the police officials should be able to discharge their duty freely and fairly without any interruption. It is my duty to point out that as soon as I assumed the Office, the unfortunate situation of past 5 years when police used to fear the anti-socials has been reversed and now anti-socials fear the police.

A well governed democratic Government endeavours to create "self sufficiency for all". Only in such Government, poor people can get all facilities on par with the well to do section of population. Many schemes have been introduced and are being implemented for the Welfare of the people, particularly the poor by my Government, after I took over as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the third time.

The best economic concept means people of all classes should acquire self sufficiency for all the essential needs of life. In order to fulfill the essential needs of the people, our Government is distributing some items free of cost. Such things distributed at no cost to the public should not be termed as freebies. It is the duty of the welfare

state to safeguard the interest of the poor people by distributing things at no cost. Hence, on the day I took charge, I have ordered to give rice, which is distributed under the Public Distribution System, at no cost.

Likewise, I have ordered to enhance the monthly assistance from Rs. 500 to Rs. 1,000 for the old age people, Physically challenged, abandoned women and widows who lack livelihood and have difficulty in managing their lives.

On the same basis, we are commencing the "Scheme of distributing Mixer, Grinder and Fan" to ease the day to day life of women, from 15th September on the occasion of the birth day Celebration of Perarignar Anna. In this modern age, where the luxurious requirements have

become essential needs, Mixie and Grinder will be distributed to reduce the workload of the mothers. In the same way, we are going to distribute Fans, which are essential for the day to day life.

Like wise, Dhoties and Saries are being distributed on account of Pongal Festival, the festival of Tamils. This Scheme should not be viewed as a freebie and should be viewed as the scheme of benefitting the poor people and as a scheme of augmenting the employment of weavers engaged in Handloom and Power loom Industries.

Even as the Government itself is distributing the essential needs, My Government does not consider this as a permanent solution. It is the

ambition of my Government to raise the standard of living of the people in such a way that they should stand on their own to attain economic independence without depending on the Government for their essential needs. The duty of the people's government is to engage the poor people in economic activities and raise their economic status. Based on this, with the noble cause of economically empowering the poor families in rural areas, My Government is going to implement the scheme of distributing 4 goats each to 7 lakh poor people i.e., 28 lakhs goats in the ensuing five years. This "Scheme of Distributing Goats" will be launched on 15th September, on the occasion of Perarignar Anna's birth day. The "Scheme of Distribution of Milch animals" will improve the lives of poor and needy. According to

this scheme, provision has been made to distribute 60,000 Milch animals during 5 years. In both the schemes, the right of selecting goats and milch animals, goes to the beneficiares and thus the rights of the poor will be established.

During my regime, I am effectively implementing innovative schemes for giving importance to women development and Child welfare. 'Cradle Baby scheme' is one such special scheme which originated in my thought. This 'Cradle Baby Scheme' was launched in Salem in the year 1992. Though the practise of female infanticide prevails in many states of India, only the Government of Tamil Nadu in my leadership, introduced for the first time the glorious "Cradle Baby Scheme" in Salem in the year 1992 to

eradicate female infanticide and to save the children from untimely death.

During the year 2001, when I took charge as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the second time, "Cradle Baby Scheme" was rejuvenated. This scheme was extended to Madurai, Theni, Dindigul and Dharmapuri Districts where female infanticide was prevalent and 'Baby Reception Centres' were opened.

The census for the year 2011, has shown the declining trend in the birth ratio of female child in the districts of Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Villupuram and Tiruvannamalai. Having felt the need for giving special attention to this sector, this government have issued orders recently to open "Cradle Baby Reception Centres' in these five districts.

In order to encourage women's education, this Government headed by me is implementing the pioneer scheme of "Girl Child Protection Scheme". Under this scheme, if parents have one girl child and they undergo family planning, the deposit amount for that child has been enhanced from Rs. 22,200/- to Rs. 50,000/-. If parents have two girl children and they opt for family planning, the deposit amount have been enhanced from Rs. 15,200/- to Rs. 25,000/-.

Considering the sky rocketing price of Gold recently my Government has ordered to distribute a four gram gold coin alongwith the financial assistance of Rs.25,000/- under the "Marriage Assistance Scheme". In order to encourage women's education, the beneficiaries having

a diploma or a degree are provided with the cash assistance of Rs. 50,000/- under "Marriage Assistance Scheme" along with a four gram gold coin. Realising the importance of empowerment of women, this Government has decided to give priority to poor families headed by women and to select woman beneficiaries exclusively for the "Scheme of Free Distribution of Goat and Milch animals".

A true people welfare oriented Government should take firm measures to ascertain the sustainability of social justice. This Government, under my leadership, stands as a role model in protecting the level of reservation for Backward Class and Most Backward Class. This Government issued orders with effect from 11.7.2011 to retain

the level of providing 50 per cent reservation to Backward Class and Most Backward Classes as per the recommendation of the Tamil Nadu Backward Class Commission. This Government has rendered Social Justice to the people of Tamil Nadu by adopting 30 percent reservation for Backward Classes, 20 percent reservation for Most Backward Classes/Denotified Tribes, 18 percent reservation for Scheduled Classes and 1 percent reservation for Scheduled Tribes in education and employment Sectors in Tamil Nadu. By ensuring 69 per cent of reservation, this Government has ensured Social Justice.

Further, this Government has issued orders for adhering to the present reservation without removing the creamy layer. In order to improve the Socio-economic status of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, this Government under my

leadership is implementing the various welfare oriented schemes. In order to provide good studying environment for the students belonging to Adi-Dravida and Tribal Communities staying in the hostels, this Government has proposed to improve the basic amenities in all the 1,080 Adi-Dravidar Welfare hostels all over Tamil Nadu at an estimated cost of Rs. 83.40 crores. Similarly, a sum of Rs. 36 crores has been allotted for construction of buildings for 148 student hostels belonging to Backward Classes, Most Backward Classes and Denotified Communities which are functioning in rented buildings. This Government has taken a decision to enhance the existing food allowance from Rs. 450/- to Rs. 650/- for the Adi-dravida school children and from Rs. 550/- to Rs. 750/- for Adi-dravida college students.

21st century is totally dependent on the knowledge based human resources. Hence, my Government is also giving importance for improvement of human resource capabilities. This improvement is possible only when good quality education is made available without any obstruction. For this, my Government has decided to provide a special financial assistance to all students studying from 10th standard to 12th standard in order to reduce the ratio of drop-outs in Higher Education.

The students of 10th Standard, +1 and +2 students of Government and Government aided schools will be provided with a sum of Rs.1,500/-, Rs. 1,500 and Rs. 2,000/- respectively. This amount will be deposited in Public Sector Financial

Institutions in the name of students and will be refunded with interest, at the time of completing the their school level education. This will not only encourage the students to proceed for higher studies but also for continuing the college education. As a measure to improve the intellectual potential of the students and to fulfill the need of computer knowledge among the students, this Government has decided to implement the "Scheme of Free Distribution of Laptops" to +1 and +2 students of Government and Government aided Schools. This Scheme will be launched on the birth day of Perarignar Anna on 15th September 2011.

At the time of giving priority to Welfare Schemes for the poorest of the poor people, this

Government under my leadership, has decided to formulate a perspective plan for attracting huge investments from the entrepreneurs and to improve the infrastructure facilities.

The benefits of economic development will reach the people only when there is uniform and systematic growth and development in the agriculture, industry and service sectors. This Government has formulated special schemes for the development of primary sectors of Agriculture, Animal Husbandry and Fisheries.

My Government is well aware that elimination of poverty will pave the way for all inclusive economic growth. Only then will the benefits reach equitably to one and all. Hence, this Government has taken measures to retrieve

the poor people from poverty and also to upgrade the standard of living by implementing various economic welfare schemes.

On this basis, various innovative people oriented welfare Schemes will continue to benefit the people of Tamil Nadu.

I assure that with your love and support, I will continue to render tireless service to my people so as to achieve the goal of ensuring welfare of the people.

Once again, I convey my greetings to one and all on this independence day.

Anna Naamam Vazhga!

Puratchi Thalaivar Naamam Vazhga!

Thank you,

Vanakkam.
